

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.                     

TOPIC Military Information from Wittenberg

EVALUATION              25X1 PLACE OBTAINED                      25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 10 October to 12 November 1952

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REFERENCES                      25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     

REMARKS                     

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1. On 12 November 1952, the Beseler Kaserne on Teuchelerweg, Wittenberg, was occupied by about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, 30 to 40 uniformed women and numerous recruits. During the preceding weeks, young soldiers continuously arrived at a rate of 50 men per week. During the same period, trained soldiers were discharged and left by train. Soldiers observed almost exclusively engaged in maintaining of tanks and motor vehicles, and reconditioning work in the barracks area. Preparations were made to fence the entire area of the installation. T-34/85 tanks                      and 600 were seen in the barracks yard. Ammunition stored behind the tank area was being readied.                     

2. On 12 November, the Flak Kaserne on Nordendstrasse was occupied by about 500 troops with the sentries wearing either red-bordered black or black-bordered crimson epaulets. All quartering buildings were fully lighted after nightfall. During the preceding days, 30 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets under the supervision of an officer who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia daily practiced with light machine guns. Three 57-mm AT guns, about 40 to 50 tanks, including T-34/85 and JS-3 tanks, and 1 SU 249 gun were seen in the billeting area.                      these tanks belonged to the Beseler Kaserne, and were only parked in the Flak Kaserne.

3. From 3 to 12 November, the Arado Kaserne on Dresdener Strasse was occupied by about 400 troops, with the sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets. A three-story quartering building was being erected in the west corner of the billeting area. No parked tanks or training activity has been observed by source for some time.

4. From 3 to 12 November, the Tauentzien Kaserne on Berlinerstrasse was occupied by 400 to 500 troops with the sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Only maintaining of vehicles was observed. Intensive vehicular traffic from other barracks installations of the post to the Tauentzien Kaserne was observed.

5. On 3 November, 30 engineers with trenching tools arrived with a regular train from Jästerbor and, subsequently, left for the restricted area at Karl Marx Platz.                      the kommandatura was in the restricted area.                      the installation near Labetz, 300 meters east of Zahner Chaussee and north of the railroad line, which previously had been reported to quarter a prison, now quartered the ammunition depot of the Wittenberg post. The installation was surrounded by watchtowers and was lighted by searchlights during the night.

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- 25X1 6. [ ] on 27 October, a train consisting of 40 boxcars, each occupied by about 20 troops, 6 cars carrying field kitchens and 4 cars occupied by officers passed through Wittenberg, coming from the direction of Dessau and proceeding eastward. Personnel observed wore red-bordered black, black-bordered crimson or black-bordered black epaulets and clean uniforms. [ ] on 31 October, T-34/85 tanks 25X1 and 1 SU 100 gun [ ] were detrained at the Wittenberg 25X1 railroad station and subsequently left for the Beseler Kaserne on Teuchelerweg.
7. From 28 October to 5 November, the Flak Kaserne on Nordendstrasse was occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black or black-bordered crimson epaulets, 90 percent having tank insignia. JS-3 tanks. [ ] T-34/85 tanks. [ ] 25X1 SU 76 guns [ ] and other tanks [ ] JS chassis and a heavy gun were being maintained in the barracks area. About 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were constructing field fortifications, 200 troops drilled in groups, 120 troops with maps marched out of the installation and 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets practiced at the obstacle course near the installation. [ ] 25X1
8. From 28 October to 4 November, fatigue duty, maintainancing of motor vehicles and reconditioning work were performed in the cantonment on Nordendstrasse, east of Berliner Chaussee. The return of fatigue details to the camp from the Flak Kaserne and the Tauertzien Kaserne was repeatedly observed. The unloading of ammunition from trucks [ ] was repeatedly observed during the period of observation. [ ] 25X1
9. From 28 October to 5 November, the Beseler Kaserne on Teuchelerweg was occupied by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery or signal insignia, 100 officers and about 50 uniformed women. Troops observed almost exclusively engaged in maintainancing T-34 and JS tanks and trucks. Only about 60 troops were drilling with rifles, and another 60 soldier left the installation with range finders, survey equipment and raps. A military band of about 45 men twice played in the barracks yard. [ ] 25X1
10. On 27 September, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied by about 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. T-34/85 tank [ ] was in the barracks yard. [ ] 25X1
11. From 23 to 27 October, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Twenty soldiers were playing soccer, 40 soldiers were constructing a fence around the installation and about 180 soldiers were drilling with rifles and submachine guns. Six T-34/85 tanks, [ ] were seen near the repair shop. [ ] 25X1
12. From 20 October to 3 November, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, and 100 officers who were billeted in the private houses near the Tauertzien Kaserne. Only little training activity was observed. Sixty T-34/85 tanks were seen in a garage. [ ] 25X1

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13. From 20 October to 3 November, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia and including a few with artillery insignia. Up to 11 armored vehicles, including 5 T-34/85 tanks, 4 JS-3 tanks and 2 SP guns with JS chassis, were seen in the barracks yard on several days. A total of 100 soldiers practiced aiming at miniature aircraft which were moved by a rope, and 100 troops were field training at squad level.

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14. From 20 October to 3 November, the Tauentzien Kaserne on Berliner Strasse was occupied by about 700 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank or artillery insignia. About 180 troops with rifles and machine guns had fallen in in the barracks yard for an arms inspection. On several days, 60 soldiers with rifles and machine guns marched to Karl Marx Platz where they drilled. Eight sidecar motorcycles, 1 repair shop truck and 1 crane truck were seen in the installation.

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15. From 20 October to 3 November, the officers' billets opposite the Tauentzien Kaserne were occupied by an estimated 150 officers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank or artillery insignia. Every morning, about 100 officers would leave for the Beseler Kaserne and 20 to 30 for the Tauentzien Kaserne, with the rest remaining in their quarters. Motor vehicles were seen in front of the billets.

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16. From 20 October to 3 November, the Arado Kaserne on Dresdener Strasse, was occupied by about 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. About 100 troops were being instructed. The tanks previously parked in the barracks area were not seen. About 100 troops removed debris from the factory building in the center of the installation.

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17. From 20 October to 3 November, the quartering buildings in the restricted area at Karl Marx Platz, except for the hospital, were occupied by about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. the section of Karl Marx Platz which, until now, had not been part of the restricted area, was being prepared for fencing. Two pontoons, engineer equipment and a large volume of lumber for bridge building were stored in this area.

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